

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5176

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3528

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SW, PO

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST LEADERS TO MEET IN STOCKHOLM TO DISCUSS PORTUGAL

1. THE SOCIALIST LEADERS OF EUROPE INCLUDING WILLY BRANDT, (POSSIBLY) HELMUT SCHMIDT, KREISKY, MITTERAND, PALME AND (PROBABLY) MARIO SOARES WILL MEET IN STOCKHOLM AUGUST 2 FOLLOWING THE CSCE SUMMIT IN HELSINKI TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT PORTUGUESE SITUATION AS WELL AS THE EFFECT OF THE ECONOMIC RECESSION ON THE POORER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE JULY 21 EDITION OF THE GERMAN PAPER DIE WELT, SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON TOLD EDITOR KREMP THAT THE STOCKHOLM

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MEETING'S PURPOSE IS TO DISCUSS THE "DISAPPOINTING AND

DISQUIETING DEVELOPMENTS" IN PORTUGAL.

2. I CALLED SECRETARY OF STATE ANDERS THUNBORG YESTERDAY EVENING TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE PLANNED MEETING. THUNBORG CONFIRMED THAT THE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE AND SAID THAT SOARES HAD TOLD THE SWEDES THAT IF HE COULD NOT COME, HE WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY ANOTHER LEADING FIGURE IN THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY (PS). THUNBORG ADDED THAT IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH SOARES OVER THE WEEKEND, THE LATTER SAID HIS POSITION (WITH REGARD TO PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVT.) REMAINS UNCHANGED.

3. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE PLANNED STOCKHOLM MEETING IS ANOTHER SWEDISH INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN FELLOW SOCIALIST SOARES' POSITION BY BRINGING INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE TO BEAR UPON THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (MFA). WHILE THE USG HAS REASON TO BE PLEASED AT THE INITIATIVE AS WELL AS BY THE EFFORTS OF THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT AND ITS RULING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN PORTUGAL VIS A VIS THE COMMUNISTS, IT NEVERTHELESS SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (AND SOME OTHER EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS AS WELL) HAVE CONSISTENTLY UNDERESTIMATED THE DETERMINATION OF THE MORE RADICAL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT TO MOVE PORTUGAL TOWARDS A COMMUNIST STATE.

4. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH ME IN RECENT MONTHS, PRIME MINISTER PALME, FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON AND OTHER SWEDISH LEADERS HAVE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED THEIR VIEW THAT THE EXTREME LEFTISTS IN THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT WERE NOT REPEAT NOT TRYING TO CONVERT PORTUGAL INTO AN EAST EUROPEAN TYPE OF PEOPLES' DEMOCRACY. IN THE OPINION OF THE PRIME MINISTER, AS PUT TO ME LAST MONTH, THE RADICAL OFFICERS IN THE MFA ARE FOLLOWERS OF THE TEACHINGS OF CABRAL RATHER THAN OF MARXIST-LENINIST DOCTRINE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE SWEDISH LEADERSHIP HAS APPEARED CONVINCED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT OVERPLAY THEIR HAND IN PORTUGAL LEST THEY PROVOKE A REACTION WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY UNDERMINE THE POSITION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTIES IN FRANCE AND ITALY, BUT ALSO

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STRIKE A BLOW AGAINST DETENTE.

5. PROBABLY THIS RELUCTANCE TO PERCEIVE THE TRUE NATURE OF THE COMMUNIST THREAT IN PORTUGAL REFLECTS THE PRECONCEPTIONS OF SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY, COMMON TO ALL THE WESTERN SOCIALIST PARTIES. RECENT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL MAY SERVE TO PERSUADE THE EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS, INCLUDING THE SWEDES, TO TAKE A HARDER LOOK AT THE REALITIES OF THE

PORTUGUESE SITUATION, IN PARTICULAR, AND THE PITFALLS
OF COALITIONS WITH COMMUNIST PARTIES, IN GENERAL.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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